

Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A holding means for holding two parts together and more especially for fixing a workpiece palette on a workpiece table, comprising a bolster able to be secured to the first part, such bolster possessing a projecting shape element, a cooperating part adapted to be secured to the second part, such cooperating part possessing a recess to receive the shape element, and a sliding element running in the projecting shape element, ~~such~~ the sliding element possessing at least one peripheral recess into which at least one clamping element, which is able to be moved in a through hole in the shape element, fits in the non-clamped state, sliding of the sliding element causing the clamping element to be thrust outward into a clamping position thereof, in which ~~[[it]]~~ the clamping element interlocks with the cooperating part in the recess thereof, wherein the clamping element possesses a central guide region for linearly guiding in the through hole, ~~same being~~ which is provided with an annular groove to receive a sealing ring, hemispherical

terminal regions being formed on either side of the guide region.

2. (Currently Amended) The holding means as set forth in claim 1, wherein one of the terminal regions has a flat ~~which preferably in the non-clamping state is essentially aligned with the outer face of the shape element.~~

3. (Original) The holding means as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least three clamping elements are arranged distributed about the periphery.

4. (Currently Amended) A holding means for holding two parts together and more especially for fixing a workpiece palette on a workpiece table, comprising a bolster able to be secured to the first part, such bolster possessing a projecting shape element, a cooperating part adapted to be secured to the second part, such cooperating part possessing a recess to receive the shape element, and a sliding element running in the projecting shape element, such sliding element possessing at least one peripheral recess into which at least one clamping element, which is able to be moved in a through hole in the shape element, fits in the non-clamped state, sliding of the sliding element causing the clamping element to be thrust outward into a clamping position thereof, in which

[[~~it~~]] the clamping element interlocks with the cooperating part in the recess thereof, ~~more particularly as set forth in claim 1,~~ wherein the sliding element is connected integrally or permanently with a piston able to be acted upon by pressure on either side thereof.

5. (Original) The holding means as set forth in claim 4, wherein the sliding element in the non-clamped, projecting position projects from the shape element and wherein the terminal face of the projecting region is in the form of a bolster face for a mating face in the recess in the cooperating part.

6. (Original) The holding means as set forth in claim 5, wherein the at least one peripheral recess in the sliding element possesses an oblique actuating face for thrusting out the clamping element into the clamping position during lowering movement of the sliding element carrying the cooperating part.

7. (Currently Amended) The holding means as set forth in claim 1, wherein the frustoconical shape element constituting a preliminary centering arrangement with the bell-like-recess which has a bell shape in the cooperating part preferably possesses a centering annular bolster face at

~~[[it]]~~ the shape element foot region or a region adjacent to
~~[[it]]~~ the shape element, for a corresponding mating face of
the cooperating part.

8. (Currently Amended) A holding means for holding two parts together and more especially for fixing a workpiece palette on a workpiece table, comprising a bolster able to be secured to the first part, such bolster possessing a projecting shape element, a cooperating part adapted to be secured to the second part, such cooperating part possessing a recess to receive the shape element, and a sliding element running in the projecting shape element, such sliding element possessing at least one peripheral recess into which at least one clamping element, which is able to be moved in a through hole in the shape element, fits in the non-clamped state, sliding of the sliding element causing the clamping element to be thrust outward into a clamping position thereof, in which it interlocks with the cooperating part in the recess thereof, ~~more particularly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the shape element and/or the sliding element~~ and the shape element and the sliding element comprise at least one fluid pressure duct, whose at least one blow-off opening is directed toward the recess in the cooperating part.

9. (Original) The holding means as set forth in claim 8, wherein the recess in the cooperating part possesses a bell-like inner configuration adapted to redirect the air current and also to clean the shape element.

10. (Currently Amended) The holding means as set forth in claim 8, comprising a volumetric flow measuring means for checking positions, such means being associated with the pressure duct, ~~more particularly prior to reaching the clamping position and/or in the such position.~~

11. (New) The holding means as set forth in claim 2, wherein the flat in the non-clamping state is essentially aligned with the outer face of the shape element.

12. (New) The holding means as set forth in claim 10, wherein the volumetric flow measuring means can be activated prior to reaching the clamping position and in the clamping position.

13. (New) The holding means as set forth in claim 7, wherein the recess is bell shaped.